

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - NOVEMBER.

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## PART I. PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

### GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions are satisfactory. Following the soaking rains of October, further falls have benefited some areas such as the central plains & the north-west. The blowfly pest is becoming increasingly active.

Rabbits are increasing.

Protective measures against bush-fires are being organised. Arrangements have been made for the supply this month of 250 knapsack spray pumps; a further large number is required.

### Miscellaneous.

Honey output and bees' food reserves were severely reduced by the drought years. A plague of thrips following the spring rains has so reduced the bees' food this season that hundreds of hives have died out.

The preliminary report of an officer sent on a mission to the United States of America by the Australian Food Council states that seed sowing, navy bean harvesting and other farm machinery has been obtained and will shortly be in use in Australia.

The State quota for Navy (canning) beans is 4,000 acres. For the first time a crop of some 500 acres is being planted on the Central Tablelands.

The Apple & Pear Board will market the crops only in Tasmania and Western Australia where production exceeds consumption within the State. Supplies will be sent to importing States to the greatest possible extent. Preliminary forecasts indicate light crops this season in importing States. In Victoria, growers have protested that they were not warned to be prepared for a return to independent marketing. They state that packing material is difficult to obtain.

The prohibition of "facing" in the packing of cherries has saved valuable time and man-power.

The Barley Board will not acquire the N.S.W. 1942-43 crop. Local growers expect to benefit from higher prices. Under the free market, the local price was higher than the Australian average but the Board had equalized prices throughout Australia.

An increase of 1d. a lb. in the prices of all grades of ham came into effect on 20th November, 1942.

The Australian Meat Industry Commission has decided to proceed with the erection of mutton dehydration plants at Bourke, Aberdeen, Darroobalgie (Jemalong Shire) and Newcastle in N.S.W. and at three centres in other States.

The Commission has announced that it will recommend to the Prices Commissioner that prices for pig meats should be fixed; wholesale margins to be established and retail prices brought under close control.

District War-Time Agricultural Committees operating in N.S.W. total 31, and in Australia, 101.

### WOOL.

Membership of the Central Wool Committee has been increased from 8 to 11 by the appointment of a representative of small growers and representatives of the Aust. Workers' Union and the Storemen and Packers' Union.

The price of wool to local manufacturers during the war has been determined as appraised price plus charges and plus some allowance for the fact that appraised prices have averaged less than the British contract price. (The return to the grower is brought up to the contract price by a flat rate adjustment at the end of each appraisalment season). So far the surcharges payable by local users have been less than the flat rate adjustments and for the current season the Central Wool Committee increased the surcharge to 25% (shorn wool) assuring recovery of past



deficiencies. Recently the power to determine local prices of wool was transferred to the Prices Commissioner. He has determined that local users shall pay 10% surcharge on appraised prices of shorn wool and 5% on skin wool (instead of 25% and 17½% respectively). The adjustment is retrospective to July 1, 1942.

The effect of the reduction on the prices of finished garments will be slight.

Excluding locally consumed wool, Britain has so far paid £188.5m. for the war-time Australian clips of shorn wool and £3.70m. for sheepskins.

The British Wool Federation has passed a resolution against continuance of price control in the wool industry after the war.

Wool received into store in Sydney was much below normal during the first four months of the season.

BALES OF WOOL REC'D INTO STORE - SYDNEY.

(Thousands)

Period	1939/40	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43.
Month of July.	53.9	86.1	80.4	67.4
" " August.	159.4	217.3	191.7	128.3
" " September.	357.2	276.8	270.0	180.9
" " October.	332.1	290.3	288.8	196.0
Four months Jan.-Oct.	902.6	870.5	830.7	572.5
Total for Year	1,345.7	1,271.7	1,263.7	-

WHEAT.

The second estimate of the Dept. of Agriculture of the wheat crop being harvested in N.S.W. is 50m. bus.. Preliminary estimates for other states in comparison with previous years are shown below:-

WHEAT CROP - AUSTRALIA.

Million bushels.

State	Av. 1929-30 to 1933-34	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43 (Prelim. Estim).
N.S.W.	58	24	49	50
Vict.	42	13	47	40
S.A.	37	18	31	30
W.A.	43	21	37	22
Q'ld.	4	6	3	6
Total Incl. A.C.T. & Tas.)	184	82	167	148

A number of steel-roofed weather-proof waggons, capable of carrying 21 tons of bulk wheat, have been provided by the N.S.W. Government railways. The new trucks are solely for wheat carrying.

According to Broomhall, the acreage under wheat in England has increased 33% since the beginning of the war.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

The British Government recently offered to take second grade Australian butter in view of current low butter production. The butter had for some time been exported to Britain in dehydrated form. Negotiations as to the price to be paid for second-grade (whole) butter are proceeding.

The low melting point of butter reconstituted from dry butterfat - 66°F. - is a bar to the utilisation of such butter in summer.

Experimental shipments of butter from New Zealand are being made in a fibre box, lighter, cheaper and less bulky than wooden boxes. Western Australia has arranged its butter box supply for the current season to be manufactured in Queensland but transport is a problem. Experiments are being made with local timbers.

It is reported from Lismore, one of the best dairying districts, that there is an increasing tendency to change over to pig raising.

Production of butter in N.S.W. factories in September, 1942, was given in B.S. 1942/10B) 10C).

Quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption during December, 1942, have been fixed at 38% and 34% respectively.

The proportion of butter available for export is mounting steadily.

QUOTAS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.N.S.W., VIC., Q'LD. & TAS.

Month	B U T T E R.				C H E E S E. ø			
	1934/35 <sup>x</sup>	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43	1934/35	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
July	50	73	64	84	75	51	61	68
Aug.	55	61	57	76	75	41	47½	50
Sept.	50	54	51	53	75	39	36	43
Oct.	33½	42	46	41	37	33	28	33½
Nov.	26	37	45	39	44	30	29	31
Dec.	24	39	38	38	38	31	29	34
Mar.	32	44	47		58	50	42	
June	68	71	85		78	70	63	

x Year of record production in Australia.

ø Applies to S. Aust. also.

Pay to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast butter factories in October, 1942, was 13½d. per lb. of commercial butter made. The rate has been at the same level since July, 1942. Deferred pay, declared half-yearly, was ½d. per lb. in the period July - Dec., 1941.

As a protest against the compulsory dipping of cattle from the Clarence River district under the tick eradication programme, a large number of dairy farmers have ceased to supply cream to butter factories. The farmers hoped for Federal intervention in the strike because of the effect on butter production but the Minister for Commerce considers it is a matter for the State Government.

COAL.

A Commission of five has been appointed to investigate, under the National Security Act, recent stoppages in the coal mining industry. The Commission is to report on causes, effects of conduct of persons in the industry, responsibility, alterations required in regulations, industrial arbitration machinery and other matters.

Mr. Curtin disclosed that Australian coal had been exported recently to South America for the use of Allied ships etc. Coal has also been sent to other Dominions.



PART II. FINANCE & TRADE.GENERAL.

The Commonwealth Government has announced the scale of assistance to University Students in the "reserved" faculties (Medicine, Engineering etc.).

Where the total income of parents does not exceed £250 p.a. after deducting £50 for each dependent child other than the student, the maximum rate of assistance will be granted viz: £2 p.w. living allowance and fees, with an additional 15/- p. wk. for a student living away from home. Assistance declines by £26 p.a. for every increase of £50 p.a. in "adjusted income."

SHARE PRICES.

The Government Statistician's share prices index for all groups in October, 1942 was given in B.S. 1942/11A.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's index of the prices of industrial shares (1934 = 100) was 117.14 on 2nd Nov., 1942, and 121.90 on 30th of the month. Little business is being done, shares being firmly held. Of 34 shares, the first to have revised maximum prices under the new control system, approximately half immediately were sold or were sought at the revised limits.

BOND YIELDS & MORTGAGE RATES.

Bond yields have been steady recently. The three-monthly weighted average rate of interest on private first mortgages registered has varied slightly since the low point reached in August.

YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH BONDS & MORTGAGE RATES.

Period.	COMMONWEALTH BONDS $\phi$			MORTGAGES. +	
	Maturing in 5-10 years.		Maturing in 10 years or more. Taxed at 1930 Rates.	Rates of interest on first mortgages.	
	Taxed at full Commonwealth Rates.	Taxed at 1930 Rates.		Rural.	Urban.
	%	%	%	%	%
1939	x	3.87	3.92	5.2	5.6
1940	(9 mths.) 3.15	3.25	3.30	5.1	5.6
1941	3.17	2.95	3.10	4.9	5.5
1940-Oct.	3.17	3.04	3.21	5.0	5.5
1941-Oct.	3.19	3.06	3.19	4.9	5.5
1942-Jan.	3.22	2.92	3.04	5.0	5.5
June	3.22	2.93	3.13	4.9	5.4
Aug.	3.22	2.80	3.03	4.8	5.2
Sept.	3.22	2.67	2.86	5.0	5.3
Oct.	3.22	2.70	2.87	4.9	5.4

$\phi$  Last Wednesday in each month: Compiled by Commonwealth Bank.

+ Weighted average rate on private first mortgages registered in three months ended month shown.

x Not available.

Subscriptions to the Austerity Loan which closes on Dec. 15th now number 200,000 or only about half of the official objective. The amount so far subscribed has not been disclosed. About 77,470 subscriptions were received in N.S.W. and 66,075 in Victoria prior to last week-end.

Australian shares in London have been firm in the last two weeks. Australian Government stocks have risen as a result of favourable war news and the terms of conversion of the £16.5m. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % loan maturing on January 1st, 1943. Conversion terms are 3% at £98, redeemable in 1944-46 and a cash payment of £2 per cent. The British Treasury will underwrite the issue. This is not taken as a sign that Australian sterling funds are running unduly low. The recent announcement that the British Government would, if necessary, service Australian loans during the

war has been clarified by a statement that the arrangement referred solely to war loans or advances by Britain.

#### BANK CLEARINGS.

During October, 1942, Sydney bank clearings increased seasonally to £115.0m. compared with £105.6m. and £101.8m. a month and a year earlier, respectively.

Total clearings Jan. - Oct., 1942 were £1,021.9m. or 9.3% above last year.

#### BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.

##### Excl. Treasury Bill Transactions.

Year	A M O U N T.		Index Numbers (Base:- Av. corresp. period 1926-30 = 100)	
	October.	Ten months Jan. - Oct.	Three months ended October.	Calendar Year.
	£m.	£m.	Index.	Index.
1938	79.5	771.6	101	101
1939	78.0	753.5	100	100
1940	90.1	880.2	115	113
1941	101.8	934.8	123	120
1942	115.0	1,021.9	137	-

(The index is adjusted to eliminate the effects of Special Government transactions as well as Treasury Bills).

#### SAVINGS.

The increase in Savings Bank deposits in N.S.W. during October, 1942 £2,198,000 brought the total increase so far this financial year to £9,045,000 compared with £3,563,000 in the corresponding period last year.

The number of Savings Bank accounts increased by 14,000 during October to 1,431,000 or 115,000 more than in September, 1939.

#### SAVINGS BANKS - N.S.W.

	<u>Oct. 1939</u>	<u>Oct. 1940</u>	<u>Sept. 1941</u>	<u>Oct. 1941</u>	<u>Sept. 1942</u>	<u>Oct. 1942.</u>
Amount of Deposits (£000):	86,751	84,568	90,735	91,314	101,385	103,583
No. of accounts (000):	1,320	1,334	1,373	1,381	1,417	1,431

#### SAVINGS - N.S.W.

£000	<u>Increase during Month.</u>					
	<u>Sept. 1939</u>	<u>Oct. 1940</u>	<u>Sept. 1941</u>	<u>Oct. 1941</u>	<u>Sept. 1942</u>	<u>Oct. 1942.</u>
Savings Bank Deposits:	(-) 400	741	1,017	579	1,658	2,198
War Savings Certificates:		305	173	149	345	345(a)
T O T A L:	(-) 400	1,046	1,190	728	2,003	2,543

∅ Net purchases (Sales less redemptions).

(a) September, 1942.

(-) Denotes decrease.

Net Sales of War Savings Certificates during the quarter ended September, 1942 averaged £293,000 per month. During September net sales totalled £345,000



REAL ESTATE SALES & MORTGAGES.

The volume of real estate and mortgage business is low. The amount of mortgages reached a record low level in October, 1942 and real estate sales were the lowest since June, 1942. Representatives of real estate agents have conferred with Mr. Chifley, the Treasurer, and asked that existing restrictions on dealings be modified

REAL ESTATE SALES & MORTGAGES - N.S.W.

£ Thousands.

Year	S A L E S				M O R T G A G E S. (a)			
	Monthly Average	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Monthly Average	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1938	3,118	4,262	3,079	3,111	2,247	2,184	2,085	2,153
1939	2,680	3,068	2,934	2,330	1,870	2,770	1,501	1,713
1940	2,588	2,259	3,149	2,885	1,375	1,099	1,240	1,144
1941	2,770	2,545	2,941	3,013	1,303	1,213	1,571	1,413
1942	1,841*	1,671	1,616	1,514	692*	451	517	423

(a) Incl. Renewals.

\* Av. ten months Jan. - Oct.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales by wholesalers in N.S.W. continue at a high level but seasonal influences appear to have been less strong in September, 1942 than in earlier years. The effects of clothes rationing should be reflected by this time in wholesale sales. Employment in wholesale trade is shown elsewhere.

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942.</u>
	Sales - £ million.				
<u>Calendar Year</u>	193.0	200.3	202.8	229.0	---
March Qr.	45.7	45.6	47.9	50.7	57.6
June Qr.	48.7	48.1	49.8	59.6	58.8
Sept. Qr.	49.6	55.1	53.7	59.1	59.6
Month of July	16.2	15.3	16.7	17.6	19.2
" " Aug.	15.3	16.8	17.2	20.4	20.9
" " Sept.	17.5	19.4	17.5	21.6	19.6

RETAIL TRADE.

The value of retail sales by the principal city stores in September, 1942 were 7% below the corresponding month in 1941, compared with an increase of 5.7% in August and a decrease of 15.6% in July. The only class of rationed goods of which increased sales were made was women's and girls' shoes, the sales' value of which was 10.4% above last year. Substantial gains were made in the sales of hardware (29.9%), books and stationery (28.1%), soft furnishings (13.2%) and fancy goods (16.1%).

The first three quarterly periods of 1942 show the following comparison with 1941:-

### LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage change from previous year.

	<u>Value of Sales.</u>	<u>Value of Stock.</u>
March Quarter.	+ 11.5	+ 17.0
June "	- 2.4	+ 10.2
Sept. "	- 6.0	+ 11.1

### RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

(Principal City Stores).

Percentage increase from corresponding period of previous year.

Period.	Net Value of Sales.	Value of Stock.	Wages & Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
1941-Aug.	+ 16.3	+ 9.5	+ 9.2	+ 2.9
Sept.	+ 20.5	+ 10.5	+ 12.2	+ 5.2
1942-April.	+ 25.6	+ 8.7	+ 7.8	+ 0.1
June	- 19.1	+ 10.5	- 1.7	- 10.9
July	- 15.6	+ 14.7	- 11.8	- 15.1
Aug.	+ 5.7	+ 13.4	- 8.5	- 12.5
Sept.	- 7.0	+ 5.9	- 9.5	- 13.3

The classes of stock which, in September, 1942, showed decreases in value compared with last year were:- Sports and travel goods, musical instruments, men's and boys' wear, boots and shoes, food and perishables.

Employment in retail trade is shown elsewhere.

Group H clothing coupons became available on November 16th, and together with G coupons not yet surrendered, will be current until June next.

The public have been asked to minimise Xmas purchases. Ties, handkerchiefs, braces and suspenders have been brought within the ration scale and certain adjustments to the scale were announced on 23rd November.

A special allowance of 6 lbs. of sugar per head has become available for jam making.



## PART III. INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners (excl. household domestics) employed in N.S.W. at the end of September, 1942 was 762,200 (males 535,200 and females 227,000). The net decrease from August was 1,600, males having decreased by 2,400 while females increased by 800. The proportion of females (excl. household domestics) in the non-rural employment group has increased to 29.78% from 27.12% in September last year.

Private employment showed a decline from August to September, 1942. Details are shown in other tables. Employment in N.S.W. by Government and semi-Government authorities was unchanged. There was a substantial influx into Commonwealth munition factories while the employees within N.S.W. of State authorities declined due to transfers of men to defence works outside N.S.W. Employees of the Taxation Department (1,161) were transferred to Commonwealth jurisdiction from 1st September.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

## ESTIMATED TOTAL NON-RURAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTICS)

End of Month.	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL.		
	Government (C/wealth, State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
-Sept.	143.4	426.7	570.1	22.4	189.7	212.1	165.7	616.5	782.2
-Nov.	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.2
1942-Mar.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
July	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
Aug.	154.6	383.0	537.6	28.8	197.4	226.2	183.4	580.4	763.8
Sept.	153.3	381.9	535.2	30.1	196.9	227.0	183.4	578.8	762.2

The Deputy D.G. of Man Power has reported that more women than were currently required had offered themselves for highly paid positions. The number offering for the Service auxiliaries is not sufficient. All recruitment for employment and the auxiliaries is being made through National Service Offices. There are certain restrictions on the enlistment of women wishing to join the Services unless they are not gainfully occupied or are employed in entertainment or sport, domestic or personal service, or commerce generally.

The restriction on the employment in retail stores of boys and girls over 14 yrs. 8 mths. is being removed, but retailers will not be allowed to advertise for such labour for ~~their~~ business.

Two special National Service Offices have been opened to control engagement of labour for shipbuilding and repairing and other dock work in Sydney.

The trend of employment in N.S.W. in certain broad industrial classifications is shown in the table below. The numbers shown do not represent the totals employed in the industries. Estimated employment in factories is shown elsewhere.

Employment in wholesale trade showed a seasonal expansion in September, 1942. Wool and produce brokers (incl. in "Other Commerce") showed a similar movement while banks, insurance and offices, agencies etc. continued to contract. The fairly rapid downward trend in employment in building, retail trade and personal service continued. The Commonwealth Statistician's index of employment in retail trade in N.S.W. (July 1941 = 100) was 87 in September, 1942. The index for males only was 75 and for females 99.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

## EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE &amp; SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERS

ON PAY-ROLL TAX RETURNS.  $\phi$ 

(Thousands).

Last Day in Month.	Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:													
	Mining & Quarrying.		Building & Constr- uction(a)		Land Trans- port (R/ways T/ways & Road.		Retail Trade.		Wholesale Trade.		Other Commerce & Finance(b)		Personal Service (excl. household domestics). (c)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1941-July	21.7	0.2	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.0	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Sept.	21.8	0.2	20.4	0.5	61.5	2.8	31.9	31.6	29.2	10.6	21.6	10.0	16.8	21.1
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	62.0	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
1942-Mar.	21.2	0.2	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	10.0	18.4	11.3	15.1	21.5
June	21.1	0.2	18.2	0.5	62.4	3.4	25.6	32.6	25.4	11.2	17.4	11.6	13.5	21.4
July	21.2	0.2	17.2	0.5	62.4	3.5	24.9	32.1	24.9	11.1	16.7	11.7	13.4	21.5
Aug.	21.2	0.2	16.5	0.5	62.7	3.6	24.4	31.9	25.0	11.4	16.9	11.7	13.0	21.6
Sept.	21.1	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.6	24.0	31.6	25.6	11.6	17.1	11.7	12.7	21.5

$\phi$  Pay Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Govt., charities etc.) whose pay roll exceeds £20 p. wk.

(a) Excl. large numbers employed on construction work by Government authorities.

(b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce n.e.i. Revised since last issue.

(c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, professional, entertainment and other personal service.

## FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number employed in all factories and works in N.S.W. (inclusive of working proprietors) was 299,000 in September, 1942. Males were 214,700 and females 84,300 compared with 214,900 and 77,100 respectively a year earlier. The index of factory employment (1938/39 = 100) was 131. in Sept., 1942. During September, as in recent months, males employed in factories showed little change while female employment expanded substantially in both Government and private factories.

Factories in the founding, engineering, aircraft etc., textiles, food and drink and paper and printing classes showed increases in employment from August to September. Employment in clothing factories declined although there is normally a seasonal expansion at this time.

## N.S.W. - FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

(Including Working Proprietors).

Period	NO. OF EMPLOYEES (Thousands)									Index Numbers (1938/39 = 100)		
	1938/39			1941/42 $\star$			1942/43 $\star$			$\star$		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43 $\star$
July	165.2	60.4	225.6	209.2	75.1	284.3	214.2	82.7	296.9	108	124	130
Aug.	166.2	61.1	227.3	210.8	76.5	287.3	214.3	83.3	297.6	110	126	130
Sept.	166.3	61.8	228.1	214.9	77.1	292.0	214.7	84.3	299.0	111	128	131
Dec.	166.2	62.2	228.4	215.5	78.1	293.6				116	128	
Mar.	167.0	62.0	229.0	215.8	80.8	296.6				121	130	
June	166.9	60.4	227.3	214.4	81.3	295.7				123	129	
Whole Year	167.2	61.6	228.8	214.5	78.7	293.2	-	-	-	116	128	

 $\star$  Subject to revision.



BUILDINGS COMMENCED.

Except for factories and other essential buildings (such as hospitals, military establishments etc. - included under "Misc." below) there is little construction proceeding. For the ten months ended October the following comparison may be made:

Buildings Commenced - M. Water Board Area.

Value - £'000.

		<u>Dwelling.</u>		<u>Flats</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Miscell.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
		<u>Houses.</u>			<u>Premises</u>		
					<u>Incl. Factor-</u>		
					<u>ies.</u>		
Jan. - Oct. 1941	...	5700		2,243	1,573	951	10,467
" " 1942	...	634		79	2,126	629	3,468
Decrease - %	...	89		96	<sup>35</sup> (increase)	34	67

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats.) No.	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED - £'000				T O T A L.		
		Dwelling Houses.	Flats	Business Premises (a)	Misc.	City	Suburbs	Total.
1938	7,457	6,001	2,481	3,496	564	2,007	10,535	12,542
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,800	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1941-Oct.	544	481	91	75	88	23	712	735
1942-Jan.	334	294	57	66	99	13	503	516
June	30	19	-	775	48	81	761	842
Sept.	31	142	8	149	72	14	357	371
Oct.	19	16	-	131	94	16	225	241

(a) Includes Factories.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Operating results of the State Railways for the first quarter of the financial year are better than last year and 1940-41.

Passenger traffic during the quarter exceeded last year by 8.4% and goods and livestock traffic by 18%. (Goods and livestock traffic was higher in September Qr. 1940/41 due to accumulation of freight during the coal strike).

Year	<u>Passengers (Mill.)</u>				<u>Tonnage of Goods &amp; Livestock (Mill.)</u>				<u>Working Surplus (£000)</u>			
	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Sept. Qr.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Sept. Qr.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Sept. Qr.</u>
1939	15.2	14.3	14.3	43.8	1.4	1.5	1.4	4.3	370	502	669	1,541
1940	15.5	15.0	15.9	46.4	1.8	1.8	1.6	5.2	808	825	769	2,402
1941	16.8	17.6	18.1	52.5	1.5	1.3	1.6	4.4	623	656	751	2,030
1942	18.3	19.9	18.7	56.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	5.1	1,108	1,221	417	2,746

GOVERNMENT TRAMS & OMNIBUSES.

Operating results for September Quarter, 1942/43, reveal an increase over last year in passengers carried of 4.6%. Earnings increased by 5.8% while working expenses were 13.2% greater.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS & OMNIBUSES.

Year	MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.				SEPTEMBER QUARTER.			
	Earnings.	Working Expenses. ★	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses. ★	Passenger Journeys. φ	Earnings.	Working Expenses. ★	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses. ★	Passenger Journeys φ
	£000	£000	£000	Million	£000	£000	£000	Million
1939	355	302	53	30.1	1,060	924	136	90.4
1940	364	300	64	30.9	1,104	913	191	90.6
1941	441	363	78	39.1	1,294	1,078	216	114.8
1942	451	400	51	39.7	1,369	1,221	148	120.1

MOTOR VEHICLES. ★ Excl. int., exch., s.f. and current depreciation.

The total number of vehicles on the registers decreased by 470 from August to October, 1942 compared with 3,360 in the corresponding period of last year. Few new vehicles are being registered.

NEW SOUTH WALES.MOTOR VEHICLES ON REGISTER AND NEW REGISTRATIONS.

Number Registered -	Aug. 1939	Nov. 1941	Mar. 1942	Aug. 1942	Sept. 1942	Oct. 1942
Cars ('000)	217	191	173	170	160	170
Lorries ('000)	78	75	73	71	71	71
Total ('000)	329	298	274	268	267	267

New Registrations -Av. No. per Week -

Cars & Cabs. No.	322	43	18	19	16	21
Lorries & Vans No.	146	52	23	9	7	4

Permits to fit producer gas units issued in N.S.W. total 16,000, three-quarters (12,000) dating from January last. Permits are being issued currently at the rate of 200 per week.

Production of shale oil by small operators is concentrated in the Moss Vale district. Output is not more than 15,000 to 20,000 gallons weekly in terms of motor fuel.

Maximum fixed prices for used cars have been adjusted upwards in respect of cars seven years old or less. The adjustment, however, was primarily in respect of cars aged three years and less, taking into account reduced mileage run under war conditions.